



VICTORY

FLASHES

from **MUHLENBERG**

May 17, 1945

Number 61

Dear Muhlenbergers:

You fellows who missed seeing Muhlenberg look different with Blue-jackets and Marines marching across the campus still may have a chance to see the old place with a different complexion. Yes, the inevitable finally happened day before yesterday when the Lutheran Ministerium of Pennsylvania, meeting in Reading, gave a definite and unanimous mandate to open Muhlenberg's doors to women students--perhaps by 1948.

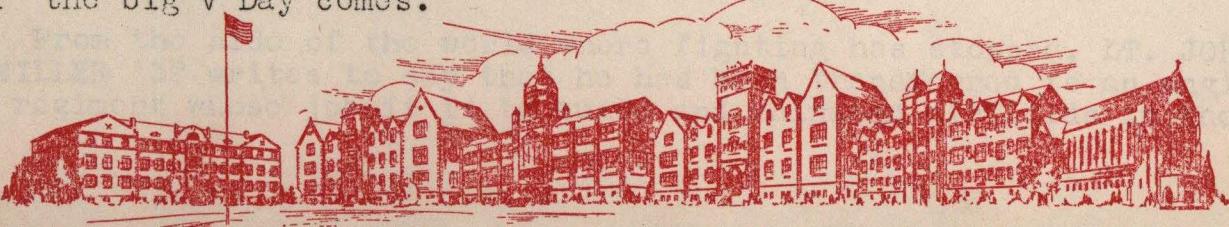
We felt it wise to leave a space there to give you a chance to catch your breath.

You'll remember hearing talk before about co-education at Muhlenberg. The Ministerium--they have owned the College since they took over the old Allentown Collegiate Institute and Military Academy in 1867--definitely decided on co-education two years ago and at that time recommended it to the Trustees. The Trustees appeared to be willing enough but didn't feel justified in initiating so extensive a project while the College still had a heavy debt. That's what the Committee on co-education told Synod on Wednesday--and more. The Committee figured it this way: Muhlenberg would not be able to admit women until they could give them the same opportunities, the same facilities, the same advantages it has given men. To provide those facilities would entail an annual budget addition of approximately \$37,000 for additional faculty members, new courses, a dean of women, a nurse, etc., etc.; an immediate expense of some \$24,000 for structural changes and new equipment in existing college buildings; and since the women students would need a place to sleep and powder their noses, a women's dormitory that very easily could cost \$350,000. The bill adds up to about \$400,000.

But Synod didn't even stagger when the bill was presented. With a unanimous vote and with all the arguments on the affirmative side, the more than 600 delegates said "Amen! Let's do it." And so they are on their way to raise the funds necessary. The women of the Lutheran Church are going to be asked to take the lead in raising the dough and the Ministerium would very much like to take the "Men Only" sign off the front door in 1948 when the Church celebrates its 200th anniversary and the College its own centennial.

If that's not enough incentive to get this war over and hurry back for the victory reunion or that post-war education program you have mapped out for yourself, we'll have to think up another.

Well, since we wrote to you the last time, V-E Day has come and gone and we thought plenty about you as we waited for the great news and then when we got it. At Muhlenberg--as it was where you were--it was a day of work. We'll have our celebration when all of you fellows get finished with the job and when you can come back to celebrate with us. We had a brief service in the Chapel at 9 a.m. on the morning of V-E Day, heard a six-sentence message from President Tyson and President Truman's official announcement, had a prayer or two by the chaplain, and then everybody went back to work. There was no boisterous celebration in Allentown either, and the biggest crowds of the day were those in churches. We'll promise you that we'll all stay on the job until the big V Day comes.



But V-E Day and the subsequent announcement by the War Department means that we probably will be seeing many of you fellows soon. From where we sit it looks as though a good many of you have earned your 85 points plus and may be getting around this way any day--if not to stay, then at least on a leave to the States. When you do get around, remember that distances mean little these days and that Muhlenberg will be pretty close to home. Remember, the welcome mat is always out and we're thinking of buying a few comfortable chairs that will be inviting enough to have you sit and talk for a little while--about anything you feel like talking about.

That reminds us that Ernie Fellows '42 was back the other day, looking swell in spite of his crutches. He spent an afternoon on the campus and asked about many of you fellows. Ernie got it in the leg (his good one) while fighting in France, but he's mighty hopeful that after a while he'll be as good as new--and so are we. T/Sgt. Ray Eskels '45, another of the New Jersey Orangeites, came back with him. He's been stationed with an anti-aircraft unit on the West Coast.

Talking about seeing some of the boys. Louie Cotanis '43 of the Marines, home from 16 months in the South Pacific and now an instructor at Cherry Point, dropped in the other day and the girls say he looks great. I missed him. Sorry Louie. Lt. Dixon Herwig '31 Navy dental officer at Quonset Point, R.I. also dropped in to say hello and just as we started writing this paragraph Navy Lt. Johnny Jones '42 and his Peggy came in. Johnny has been stationed out in Iowa but in a few more days will be down in Dallas, Texas. Peggy and the baby will go with him.

And if you have been waiting to let out a cheer for the baseball team you can do it now. After dropping the first six games of the season, the Mules finally chalked up a victory defeating F. and M. in Allentown 10 to 9. After that they went back to the other side of the column to lose to Drexel 6 to 2. The big thing is that the boys are having a lot of fun out of the season.

In track the picture is not much different. Swarthmore unseated us as champions of the Middle Atlantic States Conference but we came in a strong fourth. Don't let the boys from F. and M., Lehigh, Rutgers, St. Joseph's, Haverford, or Gettysburg razz you about it--they finished after us and, as a matter of fact, Gettysburg was unable to score as much as a half point.

So you see, the Spring sports picture isn't so hot--not even in tennis. In the first and only match to date, Princeton beat us 9 to 0.

We're still chalking up wins, however, on the Alumni Loyalty Fund front--heading toward what many of us hope may be \$10,000 by June 30 when the drive closes. To date we have had \$7,392 from 1,042 Muhlenberg men and for the first time the \$10,000 mark seems attainable. The total includes \$2,416 from 357 of you men in service for which we'll say thanks every time we knock out this letter. Incidentally, as of today we know of 1,850 Muhlenberg men in the armed forces. Art Hill's wife says that figure is audited up to 12 noon today and is correct.

Before we forgot, we promised Navy LT. RALPH SELL '28 and some of the other boys down in Hawaii that we'd tell you about the Alumni club meeting they are going to have in Honolulu on Sunday, June 3. They plan to get together in the Lutheran Church at 1036 Green St., Honolulu (telephone Honolulu 68668) and will fan out from there for an all-day party. Civilians and men in service are welcome. You fellows in Hawaii can meet Muhlenberg men if you remember the date and the place. If you should miss it, contact Sell at that telephone number and he'll be glad to put you in touch with other Muhlenberg men on the Island.

We used so much space telling you about co-education that unless we open the mail bag in a hurry we'll find ourselves jammed up for space in just a very few minutes.

From the side of the world where fighting has stopped, LT. JOHN H. K. MILLER '32 writes to say that he has been transferred to an engineering regiment whose job it is to build and maintain airfields in the

European theatre. Since hitting his new station he has a chapel for the first time since he became a chaplain overseas and added to his list of reunions a meeting with CHAPLAIN OWEN JONES '33. PVT. MAHLON HELLERICH '40 got to Germany before the war ended over there but was unable to tell us just what he was doing. CAPT. VASCO FENILI '40, PFC. ED HALPERIN '41, T/SGT. RALPH KIEFFER '29, and CPL. SOL RESNIK '44 also reported, by mail, that they are still in Germany. Halperin was beyond the Rhine with the 9th Army and sent us a gon-yoo-wine Nazi armband, the kind he says Hitler was accustomed to send to his henchmen for two Wheaties box tops and a pint of their grocer's blood. Before getting into Germany, Kieffer travelled through France, Belgium, and Holland. Only other letter from that side of the world in the past two weeks came from PVT. HAROLD KNAUSS '42, who came within a stone's throw of Germany before he became ill and landed in a hospital. He was one of the boys in the Battle of the Belgium Bulge.

To go the whole hog in jumping across space we might as well start with India from where PVT. CHARLES WAGNER '47 reports that he is anxious to get this thing over and get back to the books. At long last JOE ROEDIGER--pardon us, we mean LT. (jg) FREDERICK E. ROEDIGER '43 USNR, crashed through to report that on October 14 he was married to Alice Eastwood of Cleveland, Ohio, that he left the States on January 6 that he sees JOE SHANOSKY '43 from time to time, that he saw DICK BAUREITHEL '43 from a distance and had a session with HARRY RICE '41 who put in a year at Muhlenberg before going to the Navy's trade school at Annapolis.

The gang really is building up in the Philippines. LT. (jg) BLAIR KRIMMEL '43 wrote to tell us that LT. CARL PADOVANO '43 was wounded on Iwo Jima and that he himself had been in the invasions of Saipan, Tinian, Guam, Leyte, Luzon, Corregidor, Bataan, Palau, and Zamboango. During the invasion of Corregidor his ship picked up three Japs trying to get away by swimming. That's a good story he'll tell you about some time. LT. RAY WAHL '34 is in a camp in the Philippines that reminds him of the Allentown Fairgrounds. At a Navy club on a nearby island he had his first beer overseas--made in Pittsburgh. LT. BOB ROWLAND '41 has his dental office set up in a big town in the Philippines. When you read about the 25th Division over in the Philippines you can think about SGT. STAUFFER HEFFNER '31. The Division has been the subject of news stories and radio broadcasts--that's the reason we think we can mention it here. CAPT. DONALD FRY '37 is with another unit in the Philippines that has set a new record for continuous fighting in the Southwest Pacific--110 days before they were pulled out for a much-needed rest.

On his LST in the Pacific, RODGER VOLPE '44 ran into LT. (jg) Chuck Keim '42 and reports that Chuck had a wild time for a minute or two a little while ago. ENSIGN WAYNE KECK '44 is the executive officer on an LSM in the Pacific and on the side is doing a little post-war recruiting for Muhlenberg. Recently he met both ENSIGN JIM HEMSTREET '44 and LT. FRANK NEWMAN '43 and saw some of the former V-12 Marines just back from Iwo Jima. He's still waiting for the day he runs into ENSIGN LEROY ZIEGENFUSS '44, still on duty as a member of the staff of the Midshipmen's School at Columbia. LT. ROGER JAMIESON '42 aired his views on compulsory military service in a letter from his base in the South Pacific. The Marine Corps Public Relations Division reports that S/SGT. BILL WILLIAMS '45 is home for leave and reassignment after serving with a Marine Airwing squadron based in the Hawaiian Islands and on Midway. From the same source comes word that Navy LT. ROBERT KRESSLER '30, a flight surgeon attached to Marine Aviation, has joined the Blue Devil fighter squadron at El Centro, California.

PVT. GORDON TREISBACH's '37 living quarters on Okinawa are in an abandoned Jap dugout. When he wrote on April 24, living above ground was still considered dangerous. The Japs were welcoming the boys with 21 gun salutes and have a quaint way of saying hello to the invading American forces. Another note from Okinawa was knocked out here by LT. LEN HODGKINSON '36 who confirms what Treisbach says about its being a current hot spot. ENSIGN FRANK MILNES '44, on an LST in the Pacific, gets to see ENSIGN DAVE GOTTLIEB '44 occasionally. The surf at Lingayen Gulf, he says, was just as bad as anything those of us at home might have read about, but on the way his ship shot down two Jap planes.

Sitting peacefully in the Gulf they heard Tokyo Rose telling how the Nips' long rifles were driving the Americans out of the Bay. You fellows out in the Pacific can keep your eyes peeled again for LT. JIM KILPATRICK '33, back at sea on his baby flat top after a little while in port. LT. WOODROW WENDLING '37, his wife reports, is with the medical corps in the Mariannas and Mrs. Ray Brennon tells us that CPL. ROBERT LIEBERMAN '40 has a San Francisco APO address. COMMANDER LUTHER F. GERHART '22 suggests that we let some of his Seabees build Muhlenberg's new gymnasium and dorms if we want a good job done. How about making a deal, Luther?

It's entirely possible, from what we have heard, that we'll soon be seeing both T/SGT. LINFORD STEVER '42 and S/SGT. HARRY BECKER '43-- and perhaps a good many more of you fellows who have been overseas for a long time.

From the home bases the mail also has been heavy. For example: ENSIGN CARROLL WILLE V-44 reports he is at Everglades, Fla., rooming with ENSIGN BOB WAUGH, another V-12 man, and that he met ENSIGN JIM BOWEN '42; PFC. BERT LEVINSTONE '42 is completing his medical work at the University of Pennsylvania and will be graduated in a few more weeks. MARK POTTEIGER '39 has been called into service and is stationed at Camp Gordon, Ga.; PFC. RICHARD WOODRING '44 is teaching chemical warfare, knots and lashings, combat intelligence, rules of land warfare and dismounted drill out at Ft. Warren, Wyoming; A/C GORDON DAGGY V-45 is at Chapel Hill.

And here's some real news! PVT. ART GETZ '44 is studying Chinese in the Military Intelligence School of the Special Command Service Units at Yale. Even he used an exclamation point in telling us about it. On May 3 he had a vocabulary of 600 words against the 800,000 words he must build in the 17 weeks. Who says he won't be able to read laundry tickets? After spending six months in the hospital at Portsmouth, Va., Sl/c BILL DEISHER '46 wound up as switchboard operator in a hotel at Cape May that the Navy took over as BOQ. TERRENCE A. BELL V-44 returned to civilian life and is living in Birmingham, Ala. Sl/c HOWARD KULP '47 is going through aerial gunnery school at Jacksonville, Florida.

But here go the promotions: PRIVATE FIRST CLASS RALPH HERBST '43; CORPORAL ROBERT BLANCK '47; PRIVATE FIRST CLASS EDWARD HALPERIN '44; SERGEANT CHARLES QUINN '46; T/ SERGEANT RALPH KIEFFER '29; BRIGADIER GENERAL GEORGE SMYTHE '15; SERGEANT JOSEPH WINDISH '43; LIEUTENANT (jg) FREDERICK E. ROEDIGER '43; and SERGEANT STAUFFER HEFFNER '39.

Just before we sign off we want to tell you that we also have received letters recently from SGT. JAMES WEIRBACH '46 in the Station Weather Office at Midland, Texas; A/C BURLINGTON LATSHAW '41, at the Lodwick School of Aeronautics, Lakeland, Fla.; ENSIGN CARL SLEMMER '45, at the Coronado Amphibious Training base, San Diego; from ENSIGN FRED BOYMAN '44, in the acrobatics office at Beaufort, N.C.; from LT.(jg) KERMIT KISTLER '38 in the US Public Health Dispensary in Washington.

That just about winds things up for this time and means that in spite of the fact that we spent three days on an assignment out of town we got this letter out on schedule--thanks to Elsie and Kitty and to the ever faithful members of the Woman's Auxiliary who are sticking right by you fellows in handling the heavy mailing of 1850 letters every two weeks. Keep on writing--we have to hear from you to be able to pass these jottings on to the rest of the boys. Apart from that, many of us here at College like to know where you are and what you are doing. Many of you are long overdue for letters.

Best of luck to you! And here's to the Big V Day for all of us.

Sincerely,

Gordon
Gordon B. Fistor
For the Alumni Office